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Hamid-Nuri

RMAF TRAINING MODULE EFFECTIVE, SAYS SYED HAMID

PULAU PINANG, Aug 17 (Bernama) -- The Royal Malaysia Air Force (RMAF) training module is effective judging from the ability of the pilot of a Nuri helicopter which developed engine trouble while on a training flight yesterday to land the chopper safely at a fishermen settlement in Penaga yesterday.

Defence Minister Datuk Syed Hamid Albar said although it was an untoward incident, the fact that pilot Mej Mohamad Izhar Hasan could land the helicopter safely with no injuries whatsoever to the four airmen on board was testimony of the training he received to handle emergency situations.

The RMAF focussed its attention on training of pilots and aircraft maintenance to ensure its fleet of aircraft were air worthy at all times, he told reporters after opening the Jelutong Umno division convention here today.

He, however, declined to comment on why the helicopter had to make an emergency landing at the frontyard of a house in Kampung Kuala Muda at about 10.30am after developing engine trouble while on a training flight from the RMAF Third Squadron in Butterworth.

He said an inquiry would be carried to determine whether the incident was caused by human negligence or technical fault.

Asked whether the government would replace Nuri helicopters which had been in service for the past 25 years, Syed Hamid said the helicopters were the "workforce" of the airforce and would be used as long it was certified safe by the RMAF's technical experts.

He said studies carried out showed that the multipurpose helicopter was still serviceable and hence, RMAF would continue to use them until the government decide to buy new aircraft.

He said Nuri helicopters could not be grounded immediately following several crashes involving the Nuris as it would affect RMAF's overall operations of transporting personnel and equipment as well as mercy flights for the public.

In his speech, Syed Hamid said the economic strength alone of a country would not ensure its success but must be complemented with political stability and acquiring of the latest knowledge in Information Technology such as the Internet.

In the era of the borderless world, it was imperative that the people acquire adequate knowledge in all fields as encouraged by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

He also said that in a plural society like in Malaysia, the Malays cannot be envious of the success attained by other races but instead they should strive to achieve a similar feat.

He said Malays had no choice but to remain united under Umno to bring about a reformation in the community.

"We do not want the Malays to lag behind in their own country and remain as mere observers to see the success of others," he added. --

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